LV. 6.

# His MAJESTIES GRACIOUS LETTER To His Parliament of Scotland: WITH THE SPEECH OF HIS Royal Highness the Duke,

*His Majesties High Commissioner,*

At the Opening of the Parliament at EDINBURGH, the 28th Day of *July*, 1681.

*TOGETHER WITH*

The Parliaments most Loyal and Dutiful Answer to His Majesties Letter.

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# His Majesties Gracious LETTER to His Parliament of SCOTLAND:

## CHARLES R.

*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

OUR Inclination to embrace all Opportunities to expres Our constant Care of, and affection to Our Ancient Kingdom, hath moved Us to Call You together at this time, to Advise with Us what may truly conduce to the Security and Interest thereof: And as We have ever judged Our Own and the Interests of Our Subjects to be unseparable, and such as would divide them, to be in their Hearts Enemies to Both; (Experience having sufficiently evinced, that all Invasions upon, or Diminutions of, the Rights and Prerogatives of Our Crown, prove fatal and destructive to the Security and Property of Our People, which can only thereby be protected) so are they then best managed and secured, when provided for by Unanimous Counsels and Joint Resolutions. And as it is one of Our greatest Satisfactions that We have been always carefull of that Our Ancient Kingdom, with a Tenderness suitable to Our great Interest in it; so when We remember the firm and dutiful Constancy which it hath always paid to the Royal Line and Family; and that now it is your Interest as well as Duty to adhere unto it with Unshaken Loyalty as much as ever; We cannot doubt of your Ready and Zealous Compliance at this time, with what shall be Proposed as fit for Our Service; which can never be divided from the Happiness of Our People.

And since some (corrupted with the Rebellious Principles of the Last Age, or the Blind Zeal of this) have at first raised Schisms and Separation in the Church, and afterwards frequent Rebellions against Us; We cannot but expect from your Prudent Consultations, effectual and adequate Remedies for curing these Violent Distempers at present, and preventing them for the future: And that you will not despise or connive at the smallest

Appearances of these Wicked and Seditious Principles, which (how plausibly soever they may be disguised under the old Pretences and fallacious Masks of Liberty and Religion, which are ever least minded by the most Clamorous Pretenders to them) yet in the issue lead to such Monstrous Effects, and Rebellious Extravagances, as necessarily tend to the Dissolution of all Government and Order: And of which you cannot chuse but be deeply sensible.

This being once effectually done, We may reasonably hope that Our Government in Church and State, as by Law presently Established, shall receive its due Reverence and Obedience, and that all Our good Subjects shall be preserved in Peace, Tranquility and Happiness. For promoting these Great Ends, so necessary to the securing the Protestant Religion, Our Authority and Government, and the Common Interest of Our People, by your Joint Advice, who are so much concerned; and for Enacting of such Laws as Experience hath discovered to be wanting for distribution of Justice in several Cases, which have emerged since Our last Parliament, We have called This; and as an Eminent Expression of Our Favour to You, have named Our most Dear and most Entirely Beloved Brother *JAMES* Duke of *Albany* and *York*, *&c.* to be Our Commissioner therein, whom We have found so Affectionate to You, and to whom You have testified so much Duty during His long stay amongst You, which have enabled Him so well to understand the Affairs and Interest of that Our Ancient Kingdom. And since His Interest is so unseparable from Ours, We shall not doubt of Your Ready and Chearful Concurrence to render His Endeavours amongst You successful for securing Our Government, and your own Peace and Happiness. By doing whereof you will answer the entire Confidence We have in your Prudence and Loyalty; and so We bid you heartily Farewel.

Given at Our Court at *Windsor-Castle*, the 12th Day of *July*, 1681. and of Our Reign the 33th Year.

*By His Majesties Command.*

MORRAY.

## *The Speech of His Royal Highneſs the Duke, His Majeſties High Commiſſioner, at the Opening of the Parliament at* Edenburg, *the* 28th *Day of* July, 1681.

*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

AS I have had the Honour to Serve His Majeſty in other Capacities, ſo I eſteem it a great Honour and Happineſs, that he hath been pleaſed to make Choice of Me to ſerve Him as His Commiſſioner in this His Ancient Kingdom; Since it ſhows to all the World, the Goodneſs He hath for Me, as well as the Truſt and Confidence He hath in Me, and puts Me not only in a Capacity of ſerving Him as becomes a Dutiful and Loyal Subject, but alſo gives Me the Opportunity of letting You all ſee, the real Concern I have for the Good of this Country, and My readineſs to ſerve it, and promote its true Intereſts.

I do not doubt but that this will be a happy Meeting, and end to the Satisfaction of His Majeſty, and all His Loyal Subjects; which I ſay with the greater Confidence, having now been ſo long amongſt You, and found ſo great a Readineſs in all of You for the Advancing of His Majeſties Service.

You have heard in His Majeſties Gracious Letter, the Reaſons of his Calling you together at this time, and what He doth, and may, expect from this His Ancient Kingdom; of whoſe Loyalty and Affection to His Service, He doth in no manner doubt.

He hath commanded Me to aſſure You, That He will inviolably Maintain and Protect the Proteſtant Religion, as now Eſtabliſhed by Law in this His Kingdom; and that He will upon the ſame Account, Protect and Maintain the Government of the Church by Arch-Biſhops, and Biſhops, and will take their Perſons, and all other their Concerns into His Royal Care and Protection: And doth ſeriouſly recommend to You, to fall upon Effectual Courſes, for Suppreſſing thoſe Seditious and Rebellious Coventicles, from whence proceed all Diſorder and Confuſion, and thoſe Horrid and Extravagant Doctrines, which are a Scandal to Chriſtianity, and a Subverſion of all Publick and Private Intereſts.

I am alſo to Declare to You in His Majeſties Name, that it was always His Intention, that Law ſhould have its due Courſe, for the ſecurity of His Subjects Properties and Rights; and that He will always diſcountenance all Courſes contrary to, and inconſiſtent with the Laws of this Kingdom; none being ſo much concerned for their due Obſervance as Himſelf.

And now He doth expect You will not be ſhort of the Loyalty of your Anceſtors, in vigorouſly aſſerting and clearing His Royal Prerogative, and in declaring the Rights of His Crown in its Antient and Legal Courſe of Deſcent; and that You will take Care to ſettle and provide ſuch Reaſonable and Neceſſary Supplies, as may the Support and Intereſt of His Government require and acquire.

And now I hope, that as the Council have already begun to do their parts to promote the Trade of this Kingdom, that You will alſo do Yours, that it may Flouriſh.

*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

As the Inclination I have to ſerve and promote the Intereſt of this Kingdom, hath been the chief Inducement to His Majeſty to give Me this Opportunity to convince You of it, ſo You may preſume I ſhall do what becomes Me to ſatisfie You of it; and I hope You will have that Conſideration and Kindneſs for Me, as to enable Me to perform His Service.

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## The Parliaments moſt Loyal and Dutiful Anſwer to His Majeſties Letter.

*May it pleaſe Your Sacred Majeſty,*

THE manifold and Experiences of the fatal Miſchiefs and Calamities which attend Rebellions, muſt needs in due proportion, diſpoſe all Your Majeſties Subjects to higher meaſures of Loyalty, more particularly Us in this Your Ancient Kingdom, being ſenſible that as we have a more ſpecial intereſt in Your Majeſties Sacred Perſon and Family, ſo muſt we inevitably ſhare the more deeply in all the Inconveniencies which may diſturb or ſubvert Your Royal Government: And therefore as

by

by our Allegiance we own it our Duty to be Obedient and Loyal to Your Majesty, and your Lawful Heirs and Successors, so Your Majesties extraordinary Kindness to such as have continued in their Duty, and Your wonderful Clemency (by Your repeated Indemnities) to such as have fallen from it, cannot but kindle in us strong and ardent desires to serve Your Majesty with all the Courage and Alacrity of which we are capable, and to let Your other Kingdoms and all the World see, that we esteem our Lives and Fortunes to be best employed in maintaining of the just Rights and Prerogatives of your Majesties Crown and Monarchy; the Native succession whereof cannot be invaded without the utter Subversion of the Fundamental Laws of this your Majesties Ancient Kingdom: And this our Loyalty we esteem our alone security to avoid those Confusions and that Slavery which distracted and ruined us in the last Age, and seemeth to threaten us so apparently in this.

*SIR*,

Though some Rebellious and deluded People have disturbed your Majesties Government here, yet their Principles are so extravagant, and so few Persons of any Note or Quality are engaged with them, that we may justly hope their Crimes cannot be imputed to this Kingdom, whose Representatives in this your Majesties Parliament will, no less for their Vindication as to what is past, than for their own Security for the time coming, cheerfully provide suitable and sufficient Remedies; all of us being very sensible that those Distractions and Disorders would in the issue tend to the Dissolution, not only of your Majesties Government in Church and State, as the same is by Law Established, but even of all Humane Society.

It is a great satisfaction to us, to find Your Majesty so concerned for the Protestant Religion, not only in your Gracious Letter to us, but in the whole Conduct of your Royal Government; and we shall with all Christian Care and Duty, endeavour to confirm it, so as it may become a solid and pious Support to your Royal Family and Monarchy, and a sure Fence in this disturbed and divided Church, against all the Usurpations and Disorders of Popery and Phanatilchim; that so for the future the pretence of its Insecurity may not be made (as formerly) an Engine for carrying on disloyal Designs and Practices

We offer our most humble and hearty Thanks to Your most Sacred Majesty for calling us together at this time, to consult joyntly the Interests of your Majesties Government, and of your

Subjects

Subjects in this your Ancient Kingdom, which we truſt ſhall never be divided: And therefore as the Prerogatives and juſt Rights of the Monarchy, are abſolutely neceſſary for the defence of our Properties and Liberties, ſo in purſuance of our own Intereſt, and for further clearing of our Duty and Allegiance by poſitive Laws, we ſhall not fail to declare our humble and hearty Acknowledgments of the juſt Rights and Prerogatives of your Imperial Crown in its Juſt, Native and Lineal Courſe of Deſcent, and to ſecure the juſt Rights and Liberties of your Subjects, ſo as may fully demonſtrate our unalterable Reſolutions never to depart from our Duty to your Royal Family, and your Lawful Heirs and Succeſſors, to whom we are tied by ſo many ſacred Obligations

We do alſo with all humble gratitude acknowledg, the Grace and Honour done to this Kingdom, in naming Your Royal Brother to be your Majeſties High Commiſſioner in this preſent Parliament; and indeed the beholding a Son of our Ancient Monarchs (under whom we and our Anceſtors have been ſo long and happily Governed) in this Character, doth vigorouſly awaken in us the remembrance of our native Kindneſs and Obligation, as his juſt Temper and ſteady Equality in all our Concerns, cannot but extinguiſh in us all fears and jealouſies of Severity or Partiality, his Intereſt being inſeperable from your Majeſties, and he being well acquainted with all our Concerns, and ſo affectionate to and careful of them, your Majeſty may juſtly expect from a Parliament under the Conduct of ſuch a Commiſſioner, all that can be judged neceſſary for the Honour and Support of your Royal Government and Authority, and for ſecuring the juſt Rights and Liberties of your Subjects; and that, with all the Loyalty, Readineſs, and Sincerity which can be expreſſed by Us.

Signed in Name and by Order of the Parliament,

*By Your Majeſties moſt Humble, moſt Faithful, and moſt Obedient Subject and Servant,*

ATHOL, J. P. D. *Par.*

*Edenburg*, the 1ſt of *Auguſt*. 1681.

FINIS.